

WD 75-E, 2003

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April 9, 2003

Robert Foster
Idaho Department of Water Resources
Salmon Office



RE: Savage Ranch Water Users Association

Dear Mr. Foster:

On March 10, 2003 myself and my wife, Mardi Gooby, met with Norman and Dorothy Olsen, Josh and Angie Miller, and Larry Shiley representing David Yanoff to officially organize a "Ditch Association" for the Diamond Creek Subdivision. Written notification of the meeting was given, in accordance with Idaho State Statutes, to all parties owning property in the Subdivision who claim irrigation water from the point of diversion located immediately below the upper Diamond Creek road. Those not in attendance included Jeff Waite and Kevin Moore. With the majority present, the "Savage Ranch Water Users Association" elected the following officers and lateral manager for Wallace Ditch:

Chairman:	Dale Gooby
Vice Chairman:	David Yanoff
Secretary/Treasurer:	Dorothy Olsen
Lateral Manager:	Josh Miller

Initial maintenance fees for Wallace Ditch were assessed at \$100.00 per property owner. It was decided that in order to fairly and equitably allocate the water, lockable and measurable headgates would be installed this season in order to divert water from the main conveyance ditch. The Lateral Managers' compensation was set at \$450.00 for this irrigation season. We are requesting Idaho Department of Water Resources recognize this Association and provide the Association with guidance on any matters that arise for which the Department has authority over.

The first obstacle the Association has encountered is the failure of the Salmon-Challis National Forest, Salmon-Cobalt Ranger District to transfer the Ditch Easement that was issued to Mr. Waite into the Association's name. Wallace Ditch is located on National Forest land. This irrigation easement was issued to Mr. Waite without Mr. Waite holding a valid water right or claim recognized by your Department. This prevents the Association from having the ability to manage the Ditch in accordance with Idaho State Water Law.

The Association is asking for your assistance in educating Terry Hershey, Salmon-Cobalt District Ranger, to the fact that the Salmon-Cobalt Ranger District is located in the State of Idaho and is obligated to operate within Idaho State Law. It has become apparent to the property owners of the Diamond Creek Subdivision, including myself on many occasions, that numerous attempts to have any sort of working relationship with the Forest is not resulting in any progress in this process.

The Savage Ranch Water Users Association looks forward to working with Idaho Department of Water Resources in the future to help manage our small portion of the waters of the State of Idaho as judiciously as is possible.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Dale Gooby', written in a cursive style.

Dale Gooby
Savage Ranch Water Users Association Chairman
(208) 756-2397

Cc: Dale and Mardi Gooby
Norman and Dorothy Olsen
Josh and Angie Miller
Jeff Waite
Kevin Moore
David Yanoff
Terry Hershey, Salmon-Challis National Forest